

§ 113A-241. State to Preserve One Million Acres; Annual report.

(a) The State of North Carolina shall encourage, facilitate, plan, coordinate, and support appropriate federal, State, local, and private land protection efforts so that an additional one million acres of farmland, open space, and conservation lands in the State are permanently protected by December 31, 2009. These lands shall be protected by acquisition in fee simple or by acquisition of perpetual conservation easements by public conservation organizations or by private entities that are organized to receive and administer lands for conservation purposes.

(b) The Secretary of Environmental Quality shall lead the effort to add one million acres to the State's protected lands and shall plan and coordinate with other public and private organizations and entities that are receiving and administering lands for conservation purposes.

(c) The Secretary of Environmental Quality shall report to the Governor and the Environmental Review Commission on or before 1 October of each year on the State's progress towards attaining the goal established in this section. (2000-23, ss. 2, 3; 2001-452, s. 2.2; 2004-195, s. 2.3; 2015-241, s. 14.30(v).)